

# Busy Session Ahead for State Legislature

By VINCENT THOMAS  
 Assemblyman, 68th District  
 As one wit put it, we are certain to meet ourselves coming and going when we convene for the 1967 session in January. The very nature of the Legislature, and its methods of operation, will be profoundly changed by the effects of three major factors, which will be operative for the first time.

The first of these is, of course, reapportionment. For the first time in 35 years, the Senate is redistributed on the basis of population. The majority of its seats have been shifted to the south, leaving only a few Senators to represent the less populous mountain and northern counties. This means a complete realignment of forces.

The 40 senators elected at the General Election will be confronted by many complex problems in organizing themselves for work. Some experienced veterans are returning. There is a sizable contingent of former Assemblymen while the Senate majority and minority leaders were re-elected, and so will be expected to provide a nucleus for organization, problems such as seniority and committees are already evident.

WHILE THE Assembly was also redistributed, the results were far less drastic because its membership had been reapportioned after the 1960 federal census. However, its members must also concern themselves with revision of House and joint rules.

Second of the three major factors is voter approval of Proposition 1-A at the election. You will recall that in my previous discussions of this important measure, I explained that it provides for annual general sessions of the Legislature, unlimited as to length and subject matter. The voters have recognized that California now needs full-time legislators at a salary commensurate with the responsibility required.

Since Proposition 1-A goes into effect immediately, both our Houses will be busy carrying out its purposes during the 1967 session.

THE THIRD major factor is

## Road Project Moves Ahead Of Schedule

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn reported this week the major improvement of 223rd Street between Figueroa and Main is nearing completion months ahead of schedule.

Work on this 1.1-mile section of 223rd Street, which includes widening it from two lanes to a modern, fully curbed six-lane highway, is being accomplished by Sully-miller Contracting Co. under County contract.

Hahn pointed out the contract was awarded early in August and an original completion date was set for March, 1967.

"It appears this project will be done this month, well ahead of schedule," Hahn said.

He said the job will eliminate traffic congestion, improve safety and provide another modern thoroughfare for residents of the Carson area.

a direct result of the election of state officials at the recent General Election. The selection of a Republican Governor, and the necessity of our working with him to enact legislation beneficial to the entire

state, is certain to have a dominant influence on the work of the 1967 session. The fact that he will have to deal with majorities of the opposition party in both our Houses will obviously complicate and perhaps slow operations. How-

ever, his declaration that partisanship will not be permitted to interfere with progress has done much to create a willingness to cooperate. It is fortunate that our California law requires the Department of Finance to assist the Governor-elect in the preparation of the proposed budget for fiscal 1967-68 which he must submit to the Legislature early in the 1967 session. We understand that it is his intention to request much below the current \$4.6 billion expenditure program.

We realize, however, that normal growth factors in state programs, and in state supported local operations will seriously limit his ability to cut his budget request much below the current \$4.6 billion expenditure program.

WE ARE only too conscious of the fact that a sound tax program must be developed and passed to balance the budget for the next fiscal year. Revenue accrual cannot be used again, so new revenue must be produced, and in ways which will not damage or retard our economy. From this, our 1967 session should prove interesting and stimulating. It is a challenge to participate in its work.

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